

Canada. Privileges and Elections,  
standing committee m, 1955

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Second Session—Twenty-second Parliament  
1955

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STANDING COMMITTEE

ON

PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS

Chairman: G. Roy McWILLIAM, Esq.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AND EVIDENCE

No. 12



THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 1955

CANADA ELECTIONS ACT

(Redistribution)

THIRD REPORT TO HOUSE

EDMOND CLOUTIER, C.M.G., O.A., D.S.P.  
QUEEN'S PRINTER AND CONTROLLER OF STATIONERY  
OTTAWA, 1955

STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS  
*Chairman:* G. Roy McWILLIAM, Esq.,  
and Messrs.,

Balcom  
Bourque  
Cardin  
Churchill  
Dechene  
Dickey  
Ellis  
Fraser (*Peterborough*)  
Hansell  
Harrison

Knowles  
Leboe  
Lefrancois  
Lusby  
MacDougall  
MacKenzie  
Nowlan  
Pallett  
Perron

Pouliot  
Power (*St. John's W.*)  
Richard (*Ottawa E.*)  
Robichaud  
Robinson (*Bruce*)  
Simmons  
Viau  
Vincent  
Zaplitny—29.

Quorum 10.

Antoine Chasse,  
*Clerk of the Committee.*



FRIDAY, June 10, 1955.

The Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections begs leave to present the following as its

### THIRD REPORT

On February 25, 1955, your Committee was instructed to study the several amendments to the Canada Elections Act and amendments thereto, to study the said Act and to suggest such amendments as the Committee may deem advisable and also to enquire into the different methods of effecting the adjustment of representations.

Your Committee reported its conclusions in a draft bill and its recommendations in its Second Report to the House, dated April 29, 1955. To that study it devoted nine meetings. However, time did not permit to give sufficient consideration to the question of the different methods of adjustment of representation, and your Committee recommends that the Government consider the advisability of preparing a factual report on redistribution procedures followed in other Commonwealth countries and that this report be submitted to this Committee for its consideration at the next Session of Parliament.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

G. R. McWILLIAM,  
*Chairman.*

*Note:* This report was concurred in this day.

ORDER OF REFERENCE

THURSDAY, June 9, 1955.

*Ordered*,—That the name of Mr. Balcom be substituted for that of Mr. Cavers; and

That the name of Mr. Simmons be substituted for that of Mr. White (*Waterloo South*); and

That the name of Mr. Robichaud be substituted for that of Mr. Meunier; and

That the name of Mr. Lusby be submitted for that of Mr. Hollingworth on the said Committee.

*Attest.*

Leon J. Raymond,  
*Clerk of the House.*



## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY, June 9, 1955.

The Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections met this day at 3.30 o'clock p.m. Mr. G. R. McWilliam, Chairman, presided.

*Members present:* Messrs. Balcom, Bourque, Cardin, Dechene, Hansell, Harrison, Knowles, Lefrancois, Lusby, MacDougall, McWilliam. Pouliot, Simmons, and Viau.

In an opening statement, the Chairman outlined the work of the Committee accomplished to date and gave the purpose of the meeting. The Committee, he said, did not have time to study the different methods of effecting the adjustment of representation and it did not have factual data on the system in practice in the other Commonwealth countries. It was felt by the Subcommittee on Agenda that such data should be at the disposal of the Committee before consideration could be effectively given to the question.

Whereupon, on motion of Mr. MacDougall, seconded by Mr. Viau it was

*Resolved*,—That the Committee recommend to the Government the advisability of preparing a factual report on redistribution procedures followed in other Commonwealth countries and that this report be submitted to this Committee for its consideration at the next Session of Parliament.

The Committee then proceeded *in camera* to consider a draft Report to the House.

The Chairman read a Draft Report and on motion of Mr. Dechene,

*Ordered*,—That the Chairman present the Draft Report as the Committee's Third Report to the House.

The Chairman expressed his appreciation to the members of the Committee and at 3.45 o'clock p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Antonio Plouffe,  
*Assistant to Chief Acting Clerk of the Committee.*





## VERBATIM DELIBERATIONS

THURSDAY, June 9, 1955.  
3.30 p.m.

The CHAIRMAN: Well, gentlemen, it is now 3.35 and I see we have a quorum. I will call the meeting to order. We have representatives from all different groups here.

You are aware the committee has completed the first phase of its work which was outlined in the terms of reference, namely, to study amendments to the Canada Elections Act.

The second part of the committee's work—the inquiry into the different methods of effecting the adjustment of representation—is now before the committee.

As members can appreciate, it will take considerable time to gather data of a nature that would give the committee something concrete upon which to commence consideration of the subject-matter.

Some data have been gathered, however it is felt that factual data on the systems in practice in the other Commonwealth countries should be placed before the committee at the outset of their deliberations.

It is further felt that lack of time and lack of factual data will not permit the committee to make any worthwhile headway before the next session of parliament.

The purpose of this meeting, as suggested by the subcommittee on agenda, is to seek authority to make a request of the Government to have prepared a factual report on redistribution procedures followed in other Commonwealth countries and that such a report be presented to this committee for their consideration at the next session of parliament.

Mr. MacDOUGALL: Mr. Chairman, I move, seconded by the hon. member for St. Boniface, Mr. Viau, that this committee recommend that the government consider the advisability of preparing a factual report on redistribution procedures followed in other Commonwealth countries and that this report be presented to this committee for its consideration at the next session of parliament.

The CHAIRMAN: You have heard the motion. Have any members any remarks to make?

Mr. KNOWLES: I would just like to express the hope that the terms of that motion are wide enough to include the obtaining of information regarding the provinces in Canada. I admit there is only one that has drastically changed the situation, namely, the province of Manitoba. I would suggest that a complete report would include that information.

The CHAIRMAN: I would think when we get down to a study it certainly would be brought before the committee for their consideration.

Are you ready for the question? All in favour signify by saying yea? Contrary if any?

Carried.

Gentlemen, I think we will proceed *in camera* and discuss our report to the House. I will ask the reporters to retire.

